

SHORTER NOTE

THE CORRECT NAME OF A LYCOPODIUM NEW TO PANAMA.—A species of the *Lycopodium cernuum* group new to Panama was found on August 25, 1972 at the summit of Cerro Jefe, about 15 km northeast of Panama City in the Province of Panama at an elevation of 900 m (*M. D. Correa et al.* 1796, MO fragm US). This specimen is conspecific with others from Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. It is more compact and robust than most specimens of *L. cernuum*, and unlike *L. cernuum* it has pubescent stems and sometimes a few cilia on the leaf margins. The species resembles the Brazilian *L. eichleri* Glaziov ex Fée, which also has pubescent stems. But *L. eichleri* is more erect, has narrower dichotomies, is less robust, and has non-ciliate leaves with white, translucent, thin, greatly prolonged apices. In Peru and Bolivia some specimens agreeing in pubescence and leaf morphology with the Panama specimen have the weeping branchlet habit of *L. pendulinum* Hooker. The latter, however, does not have pubescent stems. The taxonomic status of these specimens is an open question.

This Andean-Panamanian species was originally known as *Lycopodium capillaceum* Willd. in herb., based on Humboldt 473 from Guanaguana, Edo. Monagas, Venezuela (B-Hb. Willd. 19429). A microfiche in the Smithsonian Institution Library shows a brief description attached to the sheet, but this was not published by Willdenow. Spring (*Flora* 21: 165. 1838) published the name in synonymy—and therefore invalidly—as *L. capillaceum* Willd. ex Spring. Shortly thereafter, Spring (*Monogr. Lycopod.* 1: 80. 1842) validly published the name *L. cernuum* var. *capillaceum*, again based on the Humboldt specimen. Hieronymus (*Bot. Jahrb. Engler* 34: 573. 1905) attributed the specific combination erroneously to “Willd. [in] Spring in *Flora* XXI,” overlooking the fact that the name was published there in synonymy. Since he also cited Spring’s validly published variety, Hieronymus actually made the correct, if inadvertent, new combination at the species level, which should be cited as: *L. capillaceum* (Spring) Hieron.—David B. Lellinger, U. S. National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.

REVIEW

“IDENTIFICATION OF THE ‘AIR FERN’ SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES,” by A. O. and Sharon S. Tucker, *Baileya* 19: 114–115. 1974.—Perhaps the most novel “plant” sold on a large scale in the United States is the “Air Fern,” which has bright green, bluish green, or magenta, plumose “fronds” with highly divided, almost dichotomously branched “pinnae.” Among the claims made for this novelty is that it grows on air and needs no soil or water. The authors identify the “Air Fern” as the dyed remains of the marine animal *Sertularia argentea* L., a colonial hydroid of the phylum Coelenterata. It is dredged from the estuary of the River Thames at the English Channel, dried, and dyed for sale. Because it is non-living, it makes an attractive decoration for dark places where living ferns will not grow.—D.B.L.